

Sub B3 15. (Amended) ~~A data processing method characterized in that a memory apparatus comprising a first storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written, in accordance with instructions made by a user, and a second storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written only by a data-processing apparatus designed to read from and write to said second storage region; and data is written into, or read from, the first storage region when the user makes instructions to write data into, or to read the data from, the memory apparatus.~~

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and these remarks is respectfully requested. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 USC §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. In this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 14, and 15 have been amended to clarify the patentable subject matter in a good faith effort to advance this case to its allowance. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

The Examiner stated that “the information disclosure statement filed on April 27, 2000 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance...of each patent listed that is not in the English language”.

MPEP 609(A)(3) recites in part as follows:

“Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an “X”, “Y”, or “A” indication on a search report.”

An English-language version of a search report by a foreign office (a copy of which is being submitted herein) was submitted with the information disclosure statement filed April 27, 2000. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant has satisfied the concise explanation requirement.

The Examiner stated that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Applicant have amended the title to clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. A marked-up version of the changes made to the title is in the attached page captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made”**.

The Examiner objected to claims 3, 5, 10, 14, and 15 because of informalities. Applicant has corrected the informalities. Therefore, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Applicant’s invention as described in independent claim 1, as well as the remainder of the claims, is a memory apparatus comprising a first and second storage region. Data can only be read from or written to the second storage region by a data processing apparatus designed to do so. If the data processing apparatus is not designed to read or write

data to the second storage region, than such region would be invisible to the data-processing apparatus. This would allow for greater security because not all users would be able to see data, such as password data, that is stored in the second storage region.

Claims 1-3, 8, 11, 14, 15, 18, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gaskins (US 5,606,315).

Gaskins discloses a region for storing data such as password data. However, Gaskins does not specifically state that the second storage region can only be read or written to, only if the data-processing apparatus is designed to do so. Figure 1, which the Examiner appears to rely on in his rejection, shows protected data and unprotected data is located in an EEPROM. Any general purpose data-processing apparatus could read the contents of that EEPROM. As such, this would provide less security than the second storage region of Applicants invention which could only be read or written to by a data-processing apparatus designed to do so.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is distinguishable from Gaskins as applied by the Examiner.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 8 and 15 are also distinguishable from Gaskins, as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 14, 18, and 21 are dependent from one of claims 1, 8, and 15, and, due to such dependency, are also distinguishable from Gaskins as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaskins (US 5,606,315).

Claims 4-6 are dependent from claim 1, and, due to such dependency, are also distinguishable from Gaskins as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gaskins (US 5,606,315) in view of Estrakhri (US 6,125,435).

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20 are dependent from claims 8 and 15, and due to such dependency, are distinguishable from Gaskins. The Examiner appears to rely on Estrakhri for the features of claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20 and not to overcome the above described deficiencies of Gaskins. Therefore, claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20 are distinguishable from the applied combination of Gaskins and Estrakhri.

In light of the above, Applicant's representative traverses the Examiner's rejections and respectfully submits that the references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the present invention, as claimed. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims now in this application are patentable over the prior art. Early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited. On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's representative agrees with the Examiner that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is not as relevant to the claimed invention as are the references upon which the Examiner has relied.

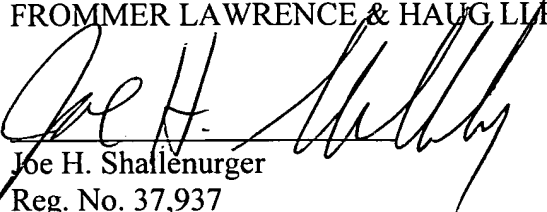
The above statements concerning the disclosures in the cited reference represent the present opinion of Applicant's representative and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant's representative respectfully requests the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit
any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

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Version with markings to show changes made
IN THE SPECIFICATION

PATENT
450101-02043
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Please amend the title by rewriting the same as follows:

--MEMORY APPARATUS[,] AND A DATA-PROCESSING APPARATUS,
AND [DATA PROCESSING] METHOD FOR USING THE MEMORY APPARATUS--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 14, and 15 by rewriting the same as follows:

1. (Amended) A memory apparatus comprising:

a first storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written, in accordance with instructions made by a user: and

a second storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written[, when] only by a data-processing apparatus [to which the memory apparatus is connected performs prescribed procedures] designed to read from and write to said second storage region.

3. (Amended) A memory apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the second [memory] storage region is used as a region for storing password data.

5. (Amended) A memory apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the second [memory] storage region is used as a region for storing a use history of the memory apparatus.

8. (Amended) A data-processing apparatus comprising data processing means for writing data into, and reading data from, an memory apparatus comprising a first storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written, in accordance with instructions made by a user, and a second storage region from which data can be read and

into which data can be written[, when] by said [a] data-processing apparatus [to which the memory apparatus is connected performs prescribed procedures] only if said data-processing apparatus is designed to read from and write to said second storage region,

wherein said data-processing means writes data into, or reads data from, the first storage region when the instructions made by the user are supplied to the memory apparatus to write the data into, or to read from, the memory apparatus

10. (Amended) A data-processing apparatus according to claim 9, characterized in that the data to be written into the first storage region of the memory apparatus or the data written in the first storage region of the memory apparatus is managed in units of files, and the data-processing means designates a logic address [of data] from the data [to be] written into the first storage region of the memory apparatus or from the file name of the data to be written in the first storage region and refers to the conversion table, thereby writing data into the first storage region or reading the data from the first storage region.

14. (Amended) A data-processing apparatus according to claim 11, characterized in that password data [is] written in the second storage region of the memory apparatus[;] is read when the [control] data processing means receives instructions [to read the password data from the second storage region when the user makes instructions] to write data into the memory apparatus or read data from the memory apparatus, thereby [reading the password data from the second storage region, or] writing data into the first storage region of the memory apparatus or [reads] reading data from the first storage region [when] the password data [read from] written in the second storage region coincides with [the] a respective password data input by the user.

15. (Amended) A data-processing method characterized in that [use is made, as a recording medium, an] a memory apparatus comprising a first storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written, in accordance with instructions made by a user, and a second storage region from which data can be read and into which data can be written[, when] only by a data-processing apparatus [to which the memory apparatus is connected performs prescribed procedures] designed to read from and write to said second storage region; and data is written into, or read from, the first storage region when the user makes instructions to write data into, or to read the data from, the memory apparatus.